

Approved on November 15, 2011

MINUTES

MID-COUNTY CITIZEN'S ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

October 18, 2011

- Members Present** Richard Newman, Gregory Intoccia, Kieran McHargue, Steve Morrison, Ariel Winter, Craig Long, Brenita Young, Robert Shoenberg, Robin Brannan, Barbara Heuter
- Members Absent** Gam Wijetunge, Theresa Bell, Eileen Cahill, Stefan Lawson
- Staff Present** Ana Lopez van Balen
- Guests** Tiffany Ward, Council Staff for Marc Elrich and additional community
- Call to Order** Richard Newman, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m, welcoming guests, new members Craig Long, Brenita Young, Robert Shoenberg, and congratulating absent newly-wed Gam Wijetunge.
- Approval of agenda** There was a motion to approve the agenda, Ariel Winter seconded, and the agenda was approved.
- A motion was made that the minutes of the September 15 meeting be approved, the motion was seconded, and the minutes were approved.

Community Concerns/Council Notes/State Report

The Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security provided a short presentation on tips for emergency preparedness.

Greg Eisenstadt reported that he earlier contacted MTA and that curbs and gutters along the Route 97 previously complained about are now being cleaned. He also asked the Board to ask the County Executive to consider the redesign of a planned firestation on Georgia Avenue in order to mitigate the impact that it would have on a nearby residential community. Richard Newman referred this matter to the Land Use, Zoning and Transportation committee

Samantha Decker a representative from the nonprofit organization the Chesapeake Climate Action Network, made a short presentation on efforts to bring offshore wind energy to Maryland. She indicated that the organization was seeking some 10,000 signatures on a petition that would

be presented to state legislators to show broad support for this initiative across Maryland. She made available literature on the effort and on upcoming events, including a town hall meeting on November 7.

Old Business

Councilmember Phil Andrews recapped his opposition to the proposed County curfew legislation, and he provided an update on the status of his development of an alternative proposal to the curfew. Questions from the MCCAB were fielded.

Director Report

Ana Lopez van Balen introduced herself to the new board members, indicating that the Regional Center would be restarting a newsletter for the Center, reactivating a blog, and would be looking to establish a Facebook account. She also briefly reported on plans for a new university in Wheaton called Ana Mendez University and said that she will continue to be working hard on Wheaton Revitalization.

Council Notes

Tiffany Ward reported that there would be a Redistricting hearing on Nov. 1. The meeting would only address Council redistricting. Richard Newman referred this general subject to the Quality of Life Committee.

Committee Reports

Kieran McHargue, Budget & Capital Improvement Committee, reported that he was requesting board input for new criteria by which to assess the worthiness of various projects in their being part of the budget. Among other things he mentioned that he is looking at using a “community benefit agreement” approach for potential “big box store” business opportunities; will look closely at present investments and how to keep them accountability to progress; and whether a project would create jobs. He would also like to develop a more proactive approach to the budgeting process.

Rick Newman, Land Use, Zoning, Transportation Committee reported that consideration was being given to build a Walmart next to the Home Depot location in Aspen Hill. He also mentioned that there would be a Bus Rapid Transit community meeting on October 24, and hoped that there would be board representation at the meeting. Gregory Intoccia, on the same committee, noted that the Farquhar Middle School land swap option was in the initial stages of informal negotiations between the Maryland–Capital Park and Planning Commission.

Ariel Winter, Quality of Life, provided history on the curfew issue, discussed at the previous month’s meeting. Mike Suban, from the Montgomery County Executive’s office gave a presentation in support of

the proposed curfew legislation and explained the Executive's position on the matter. Questions from MCCAB were fielded.

A motion was approved for the Quality of Life Committee to amend a previously circulated letter to MCCAB intended for the County Executive. The letter will express that the MCCAB would not at this time take a position in support of the curfew in light of conflicting data presented from Montgomery County source material on relevant crime trends and because of different needs and motivations expressed for the curfew.

New Business

Not applicable.

Liason Reports

Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee – no report
Wheaton Redevelopment Advisory Committee- no report
Mid-County Recreation Advisory Board – no report
Department of Permitting Services Advisory Committee – no report
Olney Town Center Advisory Committee – no report

Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn, and it was seconded. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.